G.R.S. IX·5] .

Previous references. 1923-24 (Dis)

File No. 14-23
Serial Nos. 56, 57, 58 & 59

Later references.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. 4

Part B for September 24

SUBJECT

Reduction of task work to coolies in the Tuticorin Dt.

To The chief Engineer.

No. 194/D 14-23. 59 dated 24.9.24

Request to issue instructions to the Executive Engineer Tuticorin Division to reduce task work to coolies in the Tuticorin Dt. where recommended by the Dy Comm.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Dis File No. of 1923-24

Serial No.

From

The Revenue Commr.

No. D. 24 of 23-24 dt 22.3.24.

Requests that immediate orders may be issued to the Executive Engineer, Cuttack Divn to reduce the task throughout on relief works on the prepation of 7 to 5 cubic yards & not to raise it again without orders in view of the marked depreciation in physique of the labourers.

Rev Secy's order on the P. W. D. & Rev. Put up with the G.O. stating that a reasonable wage should be given

Draft K.V.R. 24.3.24
Draft 24.3.24

A

E

2 Copies of G.O.s dated 26.12.23 & 25.1.24 are put up

3 Kind refce is invited to para 12 on each of them

24/3/24

I have warned the Addl Secy to refer to G.O. & put them up

24.3.24.

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | D.S. File No. - of 19 23 -Cy

Serial No.

1 The inspection report referred to by the R.E. has not yet been received (2.30 P.M.)

Submitted

24/3/24

2 The objections referred to by the Rev. Secy. are perhaps the Chief Engineer may perhaps be consulted in the matter

24.3.24.

Rev. Secy. Such reference is invited to para 2 of Flag E. The Chief Engineer may be asked to see that the directions contained therein is strictly followed

Chief Secy

Deputy Secy. 25.3.24

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Confidential and Immediate.

R. C. 13.

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER IN MYSORE,

Bangalore,...22nd March 192 4

No. D.24 of 23-24.
Encl: 3.

D 548
22

From

K. Chandy, Esquire, B.A.,
Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

To

K.V. Anantaraman, Esq., B.A.,
Secretary to the Government of
His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,
Revenue Department, Bangalore.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith, for the information of Government, my notes of inspection made in the Tumkur District from the 19th to the 21st instant.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
K. Chandy
Revenue Commissioner.

9

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Dis File No. of 1921-24

Serial No.

1 A draft to the chief Engr is subd for approval

Sd/ 25/3/24 Dy Secy

25.3.24.

Rev Secy

Sd/- 25/3/24

Dy

26.3.24.

To The Chief Engineer

No. 85-0/D. of 26.3.24

Forwarding a copy of letter from the Rev. Comr. re. the insufficiency of wages to the Coolies in the Timber Dt. relief works, requests that the points embodied in Co's. of Dec. & Jan. may be strictly observed & that a report on the points in rate Paid to Coolies may be forwarded very early

Dft reminder to the chief Engr is putting

Sd/ 28/4/24

15 days

25.4.24.

Issued no 989/D dated 28.4.24

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-21

General and Revenue Secretariat.

File No. 14 of 1923-24

Serial No.

From

The Chief Engr
No R 1206 D 26.4.24

Forwards a report on the rates paid to Coolies on the Tevent Tank maintenance works in the Dumka Dt.

Subd for perusal with refce to paras 7 to 10.

17 A draft letter forwarding the Chief Engr's letter to the R.E. for info is put up for approval

26/4/24

The Rev. Com may perhaps be told that the wages require no revision at any rate in the present. Forwarding the C.E.'s letter to the R.E. as proposed in the draft put up will lead to further correspondence & orders.

19

Rev. Secy A copy of the Engineers Memo may be sent to the RE.

Dy Secy 20/5/24

Secy 1/5

RE 3/5/24

Asstt Secy 3/5

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-21

General and Revenue Secretariat.	Dis File No. 14 of 1923-24
Serial No.	

To The Revenue Comm.
No. 1856/D. dated 5.5.24
In regard to the adequate frontage ways to Corlies in the Trunker. I forward a copy of letter from the Chief Engineer in Ooty in the subject

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

758/D.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | Dis File No. 14 of 19 23-24

Serial No. 56

From.

The Rev. Comm.

No D 24 of 23-24 D. 29.4.24.

Forwards a copy of letter no C. 1840 of 23-24 dated 25.4.1924 from the D.C. Tumkur &c. in regard to the adequate amount of cooly paid to the coolies working on relief works in that district and states that the D.C.s should be permitted to fix the rates wages.

Rev Secy's order on the P.V.D:-

As. REV. Please put up with the file in which the C.E's opinion is given. 30/4/24

The file referred to (D. no 739) was sent to the Rev Secy on 28/4/24 and it has not come back to the Secretariat. It has perhaps been sent to the Division

Yes / 30/4/24 30.4.24

Rev. Secy. For perusal.

In view of repeated complaints, &c. C.E. may be asked personally to inspect &c. Yes

Dewan 25. Yes. V. I.S. Yes/5

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Dis File No. 14 of 19 29-24

Serial No.

Draft to the C.E. is put up

3/5/24. 3.5.24.

57 To

The Chief Engr

No-1048 B 5.5.24

Forwards a copy of letter dt. 29.4.24 from the R.E. regarding rates of wages paid to coolies on relief works in the Taluk and requests him to investigate the question fully and forward a report in the subject.

To

The Revenue Commr.

No. D 1056 dated 5.5.24.

Forwards for a copy of letter to the Addl. Dist. Magte. Bellary No. B 12106 dated the 4th April 24 received from the Chief Engr. on the subject of rates of wages to coolies employed in the Taluk.

Draft reminder to Chief Engr Subd.

30/6/24. 30.6.24.

30.6.24

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Dy File No. 14 of 1923-24

Serial No.

30 A reminder was issued to the Chief Engr. on 30.6.24.

31 May another reminder be issued to that officer now in view of the changed situation owing to recent rainfall in the affected parts & the closing down practically of almost all the Tank maintenance works?

32 The question may perhaps be dropped.

25.7.24.

Rec. Secy/33 Please Remind Dy No 28 7

28.7.24.

34 Draft D.O. Subd.

29/7/24.

35 Issue

29.7.24.

Issued D.O No 95/D. of 29.7.24

36 No reply has yet been received from the Chief Engr. in spite of reminders.

37 In view of the improvement in the seasonal conditions, it is for orders whether the matter may not be dropped

27.8.24.

29/8/24 Rec. Secy

Dewan

1.9.24

22.9.24

DEWAN'S OFFICE.
RECD. 1. SEP. 1924
1785
NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III. 2]

Muzrai Secretariat | Dy. File No. | of 192 3-24

Serial No.

38 [illegible]

40 [illegible]

P. T. O.

NOTE—Contn. sheet

WD 0561—GPB—3750—1-8-22

G. R. S. III. 2]

Muzrai Secretariat | Mnz. File No. 35/D of 1924-25.

Serial No.	
58	From The Chief Engr in Mysore No 3574/a dt 11.9.24 Forwards a report on the rates of wages paid to coolies on relief works in the Kunkur Dft Submitted for perusal. 14.9.24.
(41)	The Connected file will be put up separately by the Deputy Secretary to Govt. Public Works Department.
(42)	Muzrai Branch Perused. 15.9.24.
	The file received with orders today is herewith put up (Please see para 38 above).
P.V.D	In view of what the Chief Engr has stated in para 2 of the P.W.D. and of this Office letter dated 19.9.24 requesting him to instruct the Executive Engr Kunkur in the matter of reducing the task a little, it is

NOTE—Contn. sheet

WD 0561—GPB—3750—1-8-22

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Dis File No. 337 of 1923-24

Serial No.

for consideration as to whether the orders at para 38 supra should again be communicated to the Chief Engrs :-

Submitted for orders

Sd/- 23.9.24

Sd/- 24.9.24.

Sd/- 23.9.24.

Rev. Secy

Draft to C.E. submd

Sd/- 25.9.24

Done
Sd/- 23.9.24.

59

To

The Chief Engr in Mysore
No 1901/d dated 24.9.24.
Requests him to issue instns to the Executive Engrs, Tumkur Divn to reduce the task-work when recommended by the Deputy Comr

To

The Rev Comrs.
The D.C. Tumkur &c
No 195-61/d dated 24.9.24
Has for info a copy of the above.

NOTE—Contn. Sheet

531
D

Immediate & Confidential.

R. C. 13.

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER IN MYSORE,

Bangalore, 22nd March 1924.

No. D. 24/23-24

From

K. Chandy Esq., B.A.,

Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

To

The Secretary to the Government of
H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore,
Revenue Department.

As Rev- Pursuing with A.G.O. stating that a reminder was sent on 1/4/24 D/ 4/4

SIR,

I have the honor to invite a kind reference to my Notes of Inspection in Maddagiri, Koratagere and Gubbi Taluks, and to state that in spite of the clear orders of Government, the tasks have not yet been reduced sufficiently to give the labourers a sufficient wage to keep themselves and their dependents in a fit condition for work. As the cost of the works under the present system work up to much less than under ordinary contract rates, there is sufficient scope for considerably reducing the task. The condition of the labourers who have been working at Nittur tank for some months is not satisfactory, and those who have to depend on these low wages for themselves and dependents have greatly deteriorated in condition since I saw the works last, and several look weak and emaciated. The Executive Engineer proposes to reduce the task from 7 cubic yards to 6 cubic yards per rupee from 1st April 1924 if the Chief Engineer agrees, and to raise it again after the rains, and I have telegraphed to the latter to grant permission to reduce the tasks; but as the ground has become hard throughout, this reduction is

not sufficient. Judging from the past, I am not confident of Mr. Karve giving adequate wages unless a definite order is issued by Government to that effect.

2. In view of the marked depreciation in physique of the labourers, I request that immediate orders may be issued to him to reduce the task throughout in the proportion of 7 to 5 cubic yards; and not to raise it again without orders, as he would otherwise raise it again after one or two showers. This rate would still be within the ordinary Public Works rates.

3. The favour of immediate orders is requested.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

K Beaudey

Revenue Commissioner.

M.B.R.

G. i S. VI—G/32]

SUBJECT .....

.....

.....

Immediate
Emergent

Diary No. of letter replied to .....

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

, *the* 192 .

Date of issue 26.3.24

Signed by Mr. T. Ramayya

Section Dis

File No.

Serial No.

No. 850/D
(Encl 2)

To

The Chief Engineer in
Mysore

Sir,

In forwarding herewith a copy of letter No. D 710 of 23-24 dated the 22nd March 1924 from the Revenue Commr., regarding the insufficiency of pay paid to the Co-

over.

W D 0632—G P B—1500—16-9 23

Certain relief works in the
Zunkur Dtts, I am directed
to invite reference to
para 12 of G.O's nos 49-63 D
and 355-414 D dated the 16th Decr 23
& 25th January 1924 respectively
on the subject and to request
that the directions contained therein
may be strictly enforced.

2. I am also to forward herewith
a copy of the notes of inspection
of the Rev Engr in the affected
part of the Zunkur Dt. and to
request that a report on the
inadequate Seoul rates paid to coolies on
the Tank maintenance works
referred to therein may be forwarded
to Govt at an early date with
your opinion in the matter. No matter may
kindly receive
immediate attention as urgent

I have etc

Copied by

Examined by

Dy Secretary to Govt

× The inspection rpts may be kindly returned when disposed of as they contain reports

List of enclosures.

35525 Immediate & confidential

DG 7/82

WD 1378—GPB—5,000—25-1-22

No. B 1206.

MYSORE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
CENTRAL OFFICE,
Hassan,

3 nos of bullocks
1 cooly gr circular
1 sht
5

Camp ~~Bangalore~~ Dated 21st April 1924.

26.

FROM John Bhore, Esq., A.M.I.C.E.,

Chief Engineer of Mysore, Bangalore.

To

K. V. Anantharaman, Esq., B.A.,

Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,

Bangalore.

Tasks and wages for relief works in the Tumkur District.

SIR,

With reference to your letter No.850/D. dated the 26th March 1924, requesting me to report on the rates paid to coolies on the several tank maintenance works in the Tumkur District, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the statement showing tasks and daily wages as at present in force.

2. The wages for Amani coolies are purposely kept low to induce people to do task work.

3. Systematic marking of pits and grades in every tank is done; and one rupee pits are always marked before hand to enable two men and three to four women coolies to earn Re.1/- every day, which works up on an average to 4 annas per man and 2 to 2½ annas per woman.

4. When it was found that a gang could not earn this sum (by working for 8 hours) either due to the hardness of the soil or increased lead or lift, the tasks were suitably reduced.

5. As the soil in tank beds had become harder later on and the price of Ragi had also gone up, it was decided at a meeting of the Local Revenue Officers held at Tumkur, to reduce the tasks so as to enable a hard working cooly, working for 8 hours a day, to earn 5 annas a day and the task was reduced from 7 to 6 Yds. - -- a Rupee. A copy of the Circular issued by the Executive Engineer is enclosed. In fixing the task, the price of Ragi is assumed as 6½ seers and working ability of a man at 50 Cft. per day.

6. It is not possible to compare the ordinary working rates with the tasks fixed for maintenance works. The latter have numerous advantages which are not given to the contract works.

7. It is difficult to adjust rates as the numerous minor tanks works (54 in number) where the sanctioned rates vary from 2 to 3½ annas a cubic yard are likely to suffer. The contractors have to be given all the advantages given to relief works or they will stop further work, as the coolies will insist on payment being made to them as per tasks fixed for maintenance works and the sanctioned rates will not allow this.

8. The principles followed till now in fixing the tasks are:- (1) price of Ragi (2) ability of a man to do the work calculated on cubic feet or cubic yards and (3) classification of soil and with these fixed payment is made purely on results except to Amani coolies who are paid daily wages.

With the tasks fixed at 7 cubic yards in many cases, coolies have earned from 4 annas to 4½ annas a day, though there may be a few instances where coolies have earned less and in all such cases enquiries are made and tasks lowered.

9. Before the wages are fixed, the Revenue Officers are always consulted. The works should be kept up at the tasks now fixed and only reduced when the price of Ragi goes up again. Any further reduction will dislocate other works under execution.

10. The Executive Engineer has been instructed to watch the situation and if found necessary to lower the task further.

11. The enclosures to your letter are herewith returned.

I have the honour to be,

S i r,

Your most obedient servant,

23-4-22

Chief Engineer of Mysore.

HRR/21st.

M E M O.

Para 12 of Government Order No.49-63 dated the 26th December 1923 and Para 12 of Government Order No.355-414 dated the 25th January 1924.

The price of Ragi is reported to have gone up and the soil on account of the summer heat has also become harder, it is therefore considered necessary to lower the tasks on maintenance and other works so as to enable a hard working cooly working for at least 8 hours to earn 2 seers of Ragi a day.

The soil is classified as hard soil and where it is gravelly the tasks are lowered. The retail selling price of Ragi is assumed at $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers (it is now sold between 7 and $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers) to give suitable margin to dependants and at this rate the cooly must be able to be made to earn 5 annas a day in lieu of 4 annas or a little more he is now earning.

The tasks are therefore reduced as noted below:-

Earthwork excluding formation from 7 yds. to 6 yds. where the lift exceeds 25 feet task will be reduced to $5\frac{2}{3}$ yds. per rupee.

Amani coolies wages:-

Men	from 3 annas	to	$3\frac{1}{2}$ annas	for 8 hours	work.
women.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "	to	$2\frac{3}{4}$ "	"	"
Children.	$1\frac{1}{4}$ "	to	$1\frac{3}{4}$ "	"	"

This will have effect from 1st April 1924, by which time all measurements of work done up to 31st March 1924, should be taken and recorded.

(Sd) V.V.Karve,
Executive Engineer, Tumkur Division

---"C o p y."---

Chief Engineer of Mysore.

HRR/21st.

Tumkur District.

Tasks.	Wages Amani. Men.	Woman.	Boys.	Remarks.
Maddagiri Taluk:-	0-3-0	0-2-6	0-1-4	When the lift exceeds 25' general orders are given to reduce the tasks to 6½ yds., task also suitably lowered when soil is gravelly or hard.
Tasks 7 cubic yards a Rupee. except on Midageshi tank. 6½ yds. Ittikadibbanhally. 6½ " Sungenhally Puravara 5½ " Bijawara tank. 6¼ " (work of about Rs.300/- done t tank)				

Note:- In most of the cases where coolies have worked for 8 hours they have earned 4 annas a day and @ Teriyur 0-4-6 a day.

Koratagere Sub Taluk:-

Tasks 7 yds. a rupee.
Except for Dharmasagara tank tasks is 6½ yds a rupee.

Note:- Many of the works in this Taluk were first started in a hurry in the Revenue Department and subsequently taken over on request by this Department. Some works as coolies did not come for work, had to be stopped.

Tumkur Taluk:-

Tasks 7 cyds. a rupee.

Note:- The 3 works that were started had to be stopped as enough coolies did not come for work. These are now restarted and 2 more additional works are started.

Gubbi Taluk:-

Tasks 7 cyds. a rupee.

Except Nittur 6¼ to 5½ cyds.
Bidare 6½ yds and at flanks 5 yds.
Keggere.7 yds. and at flanks 5 yds.

Note:- In all cases except where it is already lower than 6 yds. the task from 1st April 1924, is reduced to 6 yds. a rupee.

"C o p y."

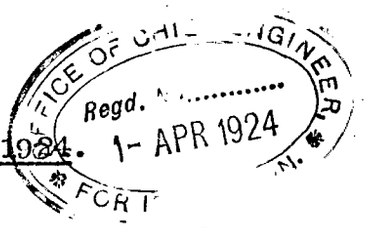
Chief Engineer of Mysore.

HRR/21st.

Notes of Inspection of the Revenue Commissioner

in Mysore.

Confidential.



19th March 1924.

Left Maddagiri in the morning.

to Settihalli. A tank work was going on here and is now nearly completed. The large panchama population of this village has to be provided with some other work. It is understood that the Kalkere tank maintenance work is ready to be taken up. The work should begin early. Thence to Kodagadala. Inspected the village and saw the Panchama population. They need a drinking water well. One has been sanctioned and half sunk, but the contractor has not been paid and the work is held up. All bills should be paid promptly, as any delay results in contractors stopping works. The Deputy Commissioner will be requested to look into this. There are some persons in this village who have applied for loans for irrigation wells. The Sub Division Officer, Maddagiri, who was with me, has been told to see that these applications are disposed of early. If these loans are sanctioned, the Panchama population will also find work. There is a tank work going on at Nitrahalli - a short distance from this place. The Panchamas of Kodagadala said that they were not allowed to work on this tank on the ground that they were of another village. Labour should not be excluded on any tank work on this ground. The Sub Division Officer, Maddagiri, has been told to take action regarding this. The question of taking up the restoration of Kodagadala tank should be considered. Kodagadala Panchamas may, if possible, be moved on to the Maddagiri-Hindupur Road for work. The temporary well for the people in the tank bed of this village should be got deepened. Thence to Arsapura. Inspected tank maintenance work going on. About 20 persons were working mostly panchamas. These men have no tools. They should be provided with tools. It was found by test that the coolies

earn

earn only 2½ to 3 annas and 1½ to 2 annas per adult male and female. The task has to be reduced. There is a Lambani well work sanctioned in this village. The Lambanis want the contract for themselves. It seems it has been given to some man of Holavanahalli now. It may, if possible, be taken back from him and given to the people themselves. Thence to Bommaladevipur via Buddenahalli and Chittenahalli. Bommaladevipur has the look of a deserted village. Many of the Panchamas are said to have gone for agricultural labour under the Navattoor tank about 8 miles away. One of the Panchama women looked ill fed and emaciated. The Patel was directed to give her half a seer of ragi a day for 4 weeks. Bommaladevipur tank work which had been started has since stopped. The reason for this should be ascertained and, if possible, the work restarted. Roughly about 80 people are said to have left Bommaladevipur and about 60 people from Chattnahalli. Thence to Rampura. The tank maintenance work here is going on. About 80 coolies were working here. Measured 2 pits to test wages earned each day. Five well built men working for one day were said to have dug a one rupee pit. Five strong men, all Mahomedans, working for four days dug a pit 30 feet long, 15 feet wide and 1½ foot deep (which works out to 30 cubic yards) and earned 69 annas - which works to an average of a little less than 3½ annas per man per day. These rates of wages are hard. The task should be reduced. When this tank work is completed, some other work will have to be found for the large number of coolies including many Mahomedans who will have no work. The Engineering Department should be written to, to arrange for taking up the repairs to the road which is in a very bad condition. Thence to Kortagere and on to Maddagiri. It is necessary for the Deputy Amildar of this Taluk to tour more frequently in the affected parts. The Sub Division Officer and the Assistant Engineer should be asked to have estimates ready for giving work to the cooly population for the remaining 3 months of the official year.

K Chandra

Revenue Commissioner.

/-

Confidential

Notes of Inspection of the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

20th March 1924.

Left Maddagiri in the morning with the Deputy Commissioner and Sub Division Officer and went to Puravara on the Maddagiri-Hindupoor Road which had been taken up to give relief. Work has begun near Gondihalli, Hale-Thimmanahalli and Puravara. In the Gondihalli section, one of the coolies said that he could not get more than 3 annas a day with hard work. The man looked very worn. The task here is said to be 12 yards of drain per rupee. The ground is very hard. The task ought to be reduced. The Deputy Commissioner and the Executive Engineer have been asked to get the estimate revised. Near Hale-Thimmanahalli the task is a little lighter and I was told that the rate worked out a little better. In Puravara, the task is stated to be 16 yards of large drain or 120 yards of small drain per rupee. This is stated to give the coolies even less than 2 annas a day. Altogether the tasks are exceedingly hard. One Ranga, son of Ranga of Puravara village, said that 4 persons working for 3 days got only two rupees. From Puravara to Modlapura, Badakanahalli, Girigondanahalli, Yerraguntc, Muvinahalli, Doddayellur and Ittigedibbanahalli. In all the villages, people prayed for remission or suspension of Kandayam. They have sold more than half their cattle for nominal prices. Most of them are without any stock of grain and I am inclined to think that coercive processes also might fail for want of bidders in auctions. The gardens on the way all looked withered and several of them are completely ruined. Work on the Ittigadibbanahalli tank has closed. Some other work will have to be started here. The Executive Engineer was present and it was suggested to him that the feeder channel to the tank may be taken up. Some land will have to be

given

given by the people free as acquisition will be costly. The Deputy Commissioner was requested to get mutchalikas from the owners agreeing to give the land required free. The people represented that no Takkavi loans were sanctioned in spite of their repeated requests and that three-fourths of the cattle were sold. The Amildar was asked to go again to the village and disburse loans, and submit a report within a week of the number of cattle in the village last year and now. They made persistent requests regarding remission and suspension of kanlayam, and said they might even have to desert the village as even respectable people have to live partly on tamarind seed, kattali root and ~~fruits~~ bulbs; while they might be exaggerating, there is no doubt that the area is very severely affected and has to be anxiously attended to for some months. The Director of Agriculture might be asked whether he could supply seed grains free of cost to the worst areas. The Government Orders regarding suspension and remission were explained to the people. The practically complete loss of cocoanut and areca-nut gardens, and the tanks not filling for a series of years, coupled with the severe drought of this year have affected the economic condition most severely. In the afternoon to Kulamachi, Hanumantapura and Hidigesi. One tank work at Kulmachi has been nearly completed and the second is going on. The task here is as hard as in other places - each man getting about Rs.0-2-8 per day and each woman one half of this. I was told however that the gangs gave 2 annas to each woman uniformly - the men distributing the rest among themselves. The Executive Engineer was requested to reduce the task. At Kalamachi one case of severe emaciation was noticed, due to gratuitous relief having been discontinued on account of delay in recouping amount spent by village officials. The Deputy Commissioner should see that amounts are very promptly disbursed. At Hidigesi enquired into the condition of the Panchamas. They have at present no work. Kasapura tank may be taken up early. The D.P.W. contractor of the place said that he would take the labourers to work on the Maddagiri-Hindupur

Road

Road. This, if possible, may be done. For the present some irrigation well loans may be sanctioned here as this will give work to the Panchamas. Returned to Madda Giri in the night. The Midigesi and Ittigethimmanahalli Hoblis require the special attention of the local officers. It will not do to leave the people without work even for a week as they have no resources to fall back on. The Executive Engineer should be requested to investigate what feeder channels are possible, and if required, a special report should be submitted regarding taking up the maintenance of Vijayara Tank; tank work being much more suited to the common people than road work.

K Chandy

Revenue Commissioner.

VRM/-

Confidential.

Notes of Inspection of the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

21st March 1924.

Nittur Tank Maintenance Work.-

About 100 to 120 persons were working. Some of those who have been working since the beginning look some what emaciated. Their ~~there~~ names are -

1. Chennamma.
2. Lakki.
3. Ranga.
4. Bangalow Nariyappa.
5. Chikkeeraiya.
6. Nariya.
7. Male Ranga.
8. Yelli.
9. Lakkamma.
10. Hanumanthanna.
11. Venkata.
12. Agasar Hutchanna.
13. Bora.
14. Balagai Nadi.
15. Lakkanna - Vokkaligar.
16. Ramaiya.
17. Doddaiya.
18. Ranganna.
19. Moodliah.
20. Venkata.
21. Sanjeevamma.
22. Thimmakka.
23. Adavi Siddiah.

All these are working from the 10th January 1924.

//

They are said to work for about 9 to 10 hours a day, and it was found that they get only 3 to 4 annas for male and 2 annas for female per day. The task has to be reduced seeing that it has had the effect of emaciating people who depend solely on the wages. Those that have other resources and in cases where the same family gives many workers, conditions are better, but the task should be such as would keep in condition the worker and one or two children.

Those who have come to work within the last month are looking somewhat better; but still some of them also were found emaciated. They are, Linga, Yerrappa, Yallappa, Nariyanna, Nari Ningi, Nari Ninga, Chikkeeriah, Sidda, Nara-samma and Ranga. This work will be over in a fortnight.

In view of the large number of coolies, a near by tank work should be taken up after this, and an estimate prepared and sent up within a fortnight, if possible, for a feeder channel to the Nittur tank.

Chelur Tank Maintenance Work.-

About 50 to 60 males and females are working. The work has just been started for the last 6 days. 4 males and 2 females working from morning till 5 P.M. earn 1 rupee per day. They are given 7 cubic yards per rupee. Here also the task has to be reduced.

At Somlapur, there is an irrigation well being sunk for which Rs.500/- have been sanctioned as loan and Rs.250/- was paid as 1st instalment. 5 males and 5 females have been working at the well for the last 8 days. They work from 8 or 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. and get 4 annas and 2 annas respectively. The work is likely to afford labour to 10 persons for about two months. At this rate, in places where there are no other works, a loan of Rs.10,000/- for irrigation wells will give labour to 200 labourers for two months. This should be kept in view.

On the way, found some women breaking metal by the road side, near Nittur. On enquiries, it was ascertained they are given 3 annas a day by the contractor for work from 8 or 9 A.M. to 5 or 6 P.M. with an interval of one or two hours in the middle. This is better than what they earn on the tank works.

Revenue Commissioner.

VRR/-

756
D.T.G. 23-56

CONFIDENTIAL.

R. C. 13.

OFFICE OF THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER IN MYSORE,

Bangalore, 29th April *192* 4.

No. D.24 of 23-24.
Enc. one.

From

K. Chandy, Esquire, B.A.,

Revenue Commissioner in Mysore.

To

R.V. Anantaraman, Esq., B.A.,
Secretary to the Government of
H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore,
Revenue Department, Bangalore.

SIR,

In continuation of My letter No. D.24 of 23-24 dated 22nd March 1924 bringing to the notice of Government the hard conditions of work obtaining in the Tumkur District and the physical deterioration caused thereby in several cases, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the inspection notes of the Deputy Commissioner on the 19th instant, forwarded to me with his No. - O.C.1840 of 22-23 dated 25th April 1924 and received to-day, from which it will be seen that even by working 11 or 12 hours a day the coolies are earning only 3 annas a day, and that some of them have fallen ill on this account.

I wish to state that rates in this case have not been raised sufficiently in spite of requests and instructions and that I am afraid that conditions in areas where works have to go on for some months continuously are likely to become serious unless the Deputy Commissioners are permitted to fix the rate of wages.

I Have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
K. Chandy.
Revenue Commissioner.

JRR/-
624

Notes of inspection by the Deputy Commissioner of the Nittur Tank Maintenance work in progress on 19th April 1924.

Inspected the work, and made enquiries of a number of coolies employed.

1) Nanja says himself and another and 4 women workdd today and yesterday and received Rs.2/- i.e. 2⅓ annas a women and 3 annas a man.

2) Moodli and Doddasidda say that they and 4 women worked for 2 days similarly and received Rs.2/- which works out at 2⅓ annas a woman and 3 annas a male.

3) Naga and Reva with 4 women have received Rs.2/- for 2 days.

4) Chickeera with 2 men and 4 women got Rs.2/- for 2 days i.e. Rs.0-3-6 a man and Rs.0-1-3 a women per day. But the man says that owing to recent rain and stagnation of water the soil in his plot was softer and he found the task easier today. Prior to this they got only Rs.1/- which works out at less than 3 annas a man and 2⅓ annas a woman.

Naiker Thimma, Yedagai Ranga, Mutcha and Obli and Sivachar Nanj appa are getting 3⅓ annas for breaking clods and tamping on the bund wherein the task is much lighter and easier.

All the coolies complain that they have to live merely on kanji (ambli) as their wages do not suffice for ragi ball -- (mittoo) as ragi is being sold at 7 seers per rupee. They also say that if they buy ragi for less than Rs.1/- they get only 6½ seers, and all pray that they may be given Rs.1-4-0 for 4½ C.Yds.

All these men and women come and work from 5 A.M. to 12 noon and again from 3P.M. in the 8 P.M. in the moon light which amounts to 12 hours a day, or even making an allowance of an hour, it comes to 11 hours a day and this to earn no more than 3 annas seems rather very

very hard, if not cruel.

Overseer in charge says that till yesterday the task was 5 C.Yds. per day or per rupee and it Was been reduced to 4½ C.Yds. from today, - it being reduced to 4 C.Yds. at the other end of the bund as the soil is very hard. But even this has afforded no relief, as every one of these told me that they would have to continue to work till 8 P.M. in the moonlight to earn their wages!!

The hard nature of the soil and the consequent hard nature of the task is evident from the small progress they are able to make in 11 to 12 hours of work. Every one of the parties was engaged in bringing water from the well so as to let it soak into the soil and soften it!!

It is no wonder that the 5th party Ranga with another and 3 women has broken down owing to fever and headache and came only at 9 A.M. and worked till 11 A.M. only today and again borne at 4 P.M.

Sd/- Md. Zahiruddin Mecci,
Deputy Commissioner,
Tumkur District.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner,
Tumkur District.
Dated Camp-Turuvekere the 20th April 1924.

M E M O.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to the Executive Engineer, Tumkur Division for information. In inviting his kind attention to the resolution passed at the last officers' meeting that the task be reduced from the 1st April and arrangements be made as suggested by the Revenue Commissioner during his last inspection of the tank, to see that no male or female cooly get less than 4 annas and 3 annas a day respectively, the Executive Engineer is requested to kindly take immediate necessary steps in the matter in view of the hardships and other circumstances represented by the coolies, as no appreciable change seems to have been brought about to regulate their task and wages since our last discussions on the subject.

Sd/- Md. Zahiruddin Mecci,
Deputy Commissioner,
Tumkur District.

"C O P Y"

for Revenue Commissioner 29/4/24

G. R. S. G/33]

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(*Continuation sheet draft form.*)

Confidential Immediate

No. 1048/D 14-23-27

To Sub-div-2 dated 5-5-24,

The Chief Engineer

Sir,

With refee to your letter no 1206 dated 26-4-24 reporting on the ~~inadequacy~~ rates of the wages paid to Coolies on relief works in the Dumka Distt, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter no D 24 dated 25-24 the 25th April 1924 from the Rev Comm together with ~~that~~ its enclosure on the subject and to request that in view of the repeated Complaints you may be so good as to investigate the question personally

WD 2280—GPB—1,00,000—29-7-20

G. R. S. G/33]

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(*Continuation sheet draft form.*)

D. 1056
ms 2

of 5.5.14

To

The Revenue Commr

Sir,

With refee to your letter no. D24 25-24 dated the 22nd March 1924 regarding the grant of adequate wages to the coolies working on the Tank maintenance works in the Tumkur Dist, I am directed to forward herewith for info a copy of the letter no. B/1056 dated the 26th April 24 from the Chief Engr in the subject.

Revenue Secretary

WD 2230—GPB—1,00,000—23-7-20

Immediate

337
Dis. 14423-58

WD 1378—GPB—5,000—25-1-22

No. 3574 14433
2

MYSORE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
CENTRAL OFFICE,
Dated Bangalore.....11 September.....1924.

FROM John Bhore, Esq., A.M.I.C.E.,
~~SxCADAMBIxEsq.~~,
Chief Engineer of Mysore, Bangalore.

Received 13-9-24 at 2pm

K.V.Anantharaman, Esq., B.A.,
Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
Bangalore.

SIR,

With reference to your letter No.1048/Dis. dated the 5th May 1924, calling for a report on the rate of wages paid to coolies on relief works in the Tumkur District, I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of letter No.126 dated the 15th August 1924, from the Executive Engineer, Tumkur Division, in the matter, together with a copy of Deputy Commissioner's letter No.1840/22-23 dated the 20th August 1924, addressed to the Executive Engineer, Tumkur Division, since received from the latter officer.

2. I have assured myself that the task has been kept fairly low, so that an average man may earn 4 annas a day. The Executive Engineer (Mr.Karve) was very closely studying the situation on the various works started for relief purposes and has generally taken necessary steps to reduce the task when he was convinced that it was too hard for the men employed.

I have the honour to be,
S i r,
Your most obedient servant,

John Bhore 11.9.24
Chief Engineer of Mysore.

HRR.

Letter No.126 dated the 10th August 1924, from the Executive Engineer, Tumkur Division, to the Chief Engineer of Mysore, Bangalor

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With reference to your No.2011 dated 8-8-1924, regarding the rates of wages paid to the coolies in the Tumkur District, I have the honor to invite your kind reference to my letter No.46 dated 12-7-1924, and to state that no reply has as yet been received from the Deputy Commissioner, who was requested to forward for information certain references showing details of coolies having earned only 3 annas or less with a hard work of 11 hours, as it was found during my inspection that, as reported to you in my letter No.46 dated 12-7-1924, the task was very liberal and that due, to reduction of tasks from 1-4-1924 as intimated to you in this office No.46 dated 12-7-1924, the coolies were earning in some cases as much as even 6 annas a day.

The Deputy Commissioner is again reminded in the matter and a further report will, if considered desirable, be submitted immediately on hearing from that officer.

During my inspection of Ammanhalli tank on 10-5-1924, I made enquiries of one Ranga, who was one of the parties that is reported to have earned less than 3 annas, by hard work of over 8 hours. Every cooly that was working at Nittur was earning nothing less than 4 annas and though work was available, coolies were always observed to leave the work by 11 A.M. or 12 noon, after finishing one rupee pit, thus earning 4 annas for less than 7 hours work. This Ranga confessed for having given incorrect information and was allowed to rejoin the work.

Whenever a work was inspected, I had made it a point to ascertain from coolies direct, the wages earned, and the number of hours they have worked and verify it with the account book of the contractor and where the earning was, with hard work, found to be low, the task was immediately reduced.

As I have often said, no cooly will ever say that he is earning enough, and is happy, and the demand for reduction of task

will never end. From 7 Cyds. the task was reduced to 5½ Cyds. from 15-4-1924, as peryour orders and as I have said above, this is very, very, liberal and as it is, has considerably affected various minor and other tank works in progress under contract system.

The Revenue Officers had been requested to bring to the notice of this Department, any short or low earning for needful action. As I have already reported Nittur tank is a typical example where with 7 Cyds. a rupee the coolies first represented that they did not earn even 0-1-9 to 0-2-0 a day, they even struck work, but the task was not reduced, there were shown the methods of work and the same coolies have at the same time without any reduction of task earned as much as 4 annas a day.

With task at 5½ Cyds it is beyond imagination to expect a cooly working 11 hours not earning even 3 annas, when in various cases even working for 7 to 8 hours the coolies have earned as much as even 6 annas. The causes therefore which have enabled the cooly to earn less must therefore be different, but it certainly cannot be the task.

The weak and old persons were employed as Amani coolies on breaking clods and formation, and they were paid the fixed wages also, irrespective of the quality or quantity of work turned out by them.

The wages of coolies must depend on the price of Ragi and fixing the working ability of a man, the present task is so liberal, that he is able to earn by good hard work of 8 hours at least 4½ annas to 5½ annas, enabling him to purchase at least 2 to 2¼ seers of Ragi and besides the cooly has numerous advantages provided for him on the work, viz., (1) Close proximity of the work, practically close to his village. (2) Provision of tools to Punchamas and others. (3) Practically daily payment in kind or cash. (4) Provision of drinking water on works. (5) Taking old, weak and young dependents on Amani work. All these advantages are denied on the other works where contractors have tendered and the sanctioned rates of minor tanks for earth work

including formation varied from 2 annas to 3½ annas or the task would vary from 8 Cyds. to 5 Cyds. With the reduced tasks, coolies insisted on getting the same tasks from contractors and as they could not give, the works suffered.

The task as fixed is very liberal and has given ample opportunity for the coolies to earn as noted above 4½ annas to 5½ annas. One of the reasons which necessitated reduction of tasks was the hardness of soil due to want of rain. Now that it has rained and soil in beds has become softer, if works have to continue after the 15th August 1924, the tasks should revert to 7 Cyds a rupee again, but since the price of Ragi still continues high, the task will for the time being, if approved be fixed at 6¼ Cyds. a mean of 5½ and 7.

If definite cases of short or low earning are brought by the Revenue Department promptly to the notice of this Department, immediate enquiries will be made and if need be (if enquiry proves that the tasks are really hard) tasks lowered suitably.

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"C p p y."

M. Narasimha Rao —
For Chief Engineer of Mysore.

HRR.

Letter No.O/C 1840/22-23 dated 20-8-1924, from the Deputy Commissioner, Tumkur District, to the Executive Engineer, Tumkur Division.

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With reference to your letter No.19 dated 8/9th July 1924 and subsequent reminders thereon regarding inadequate payment of wages to coolies working at the several tank maintenance works in the District in the 1923-24 to engage the cooly class, I have the honor to state that the coolies who were working at the works inspected by me during the week ending 31st May 1924, represented to me that they were paid at 3 annas for a man and 2 annas 4 pies for woman for a work of 11 hours daily. But subsequently I got reports from the Amildar and Sub Division Officer Maddagiri, that the wages at the reduced rate seemed to them to be fair as the earth was soft due to the rains received then. Thinking that the representation

of

of the coolies was meagre the matter was not referred to you for further consideration.

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' Copy '

For Chief Engineer of Mysore.

A.N.

R. S. VI—G/32]

SUBJECT .....

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Diary No. of letter replied to .....

General and Revenue Secretariat

( )

, the 192 .

Date of issue 14.9.26

Signed by Mr. I.R.

Section Dis

File No. 34-23

Serial No. 59

No. 194/D

To

The Chief Engineer in Mysore

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No 3579 dated the 11th Septr 1926 I am directed to state that there has been some complaint about the rates of wages pair

over.

WD 0632-GPB—1800—16-8 28